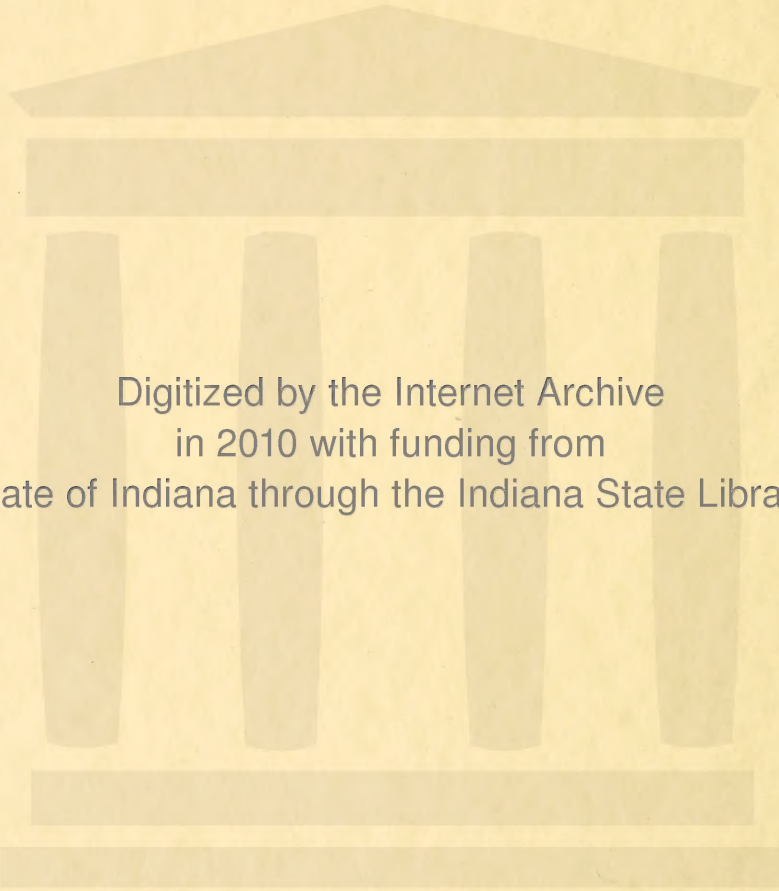


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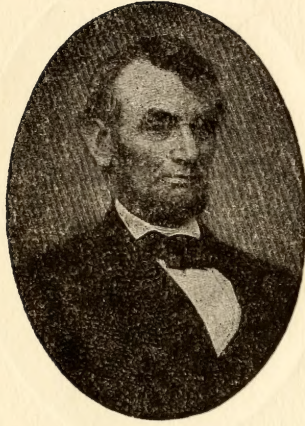
LINCOLN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

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The Autobiography
of
Abraham Lincoln

REPRODUCED BY THE EDWARD T. KELLY COMPANY,
CHICAGO, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE HEIRS
AND DESCENDANTS OF JESSE W. FELL.

I was born Feb 12. 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky.
My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistin-
guished families, perhaps I should say ^{became families}. My mother, who died in my
^{tenth} ~~ninth~~ year, was of a family of the name of Hardin,
some of whom now reside in Adams, and others
in Macou Counties, Illinois. My paternal grandfather,
Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rock-
ingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or
2, where, a year or two later, he was killed by
Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he
was laboring to open a farm in the forest.
His grandson, who was grandfather, went to Virginia
from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to
identify them with the New-England family ^{of the same name} was
as in nothing more definite, than a similarity
of Christian names in both families, such as
Ezekiel, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham, and
the like.

My father, at the death of his father, was
but five years of age; and he grew up,
literally without education. He removed
from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana,
and, in my eighth year. We reached our new home
about the time the State came into the Union. It
was a wild region, with many bears and other
wild animals, still in the woods. There I grew
up. There were some schools, so called, but no
qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond
reading, writing, and ciphering.
~~Reading, writing, and ciphering~~ ^{according to the Rules of}
Thiers. If a stranger ^{aspires to understand Latin} happened to sojourn in.

the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a
wizzard. There was absolutely nothing to excite
ambition for education. Of course when I came of
age, I did not know much. Still somehow, I could
read, write, give cipher to the Rule of Three, but
that was all. I have not been to school since.
The little advances I now have upon the study of educa-
tion, I have ~~been~~ picked up from time to time under
the pressure of necessity.

I was raised to farm work, which I continued
till I was twenty-two. At twenty-one, I came to
Illinois, and passed the first year in Illinois
Macou County. Then I got ^{at that time} to New Salem ~~(then)~~
in Sangamon, now in Menard County, where I per-
maned a year as a sort of blacksmith
store. Then came the Black Hawk war,
and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers -
a success which gave me more pleasure
than any I have had since. I went the
campaign, was elected, ran for the Legislature the
same year (1832), and was beaten - the only time
I ever have been beaten by the people. The next,
and three succeeding biennial elections, I was elected
to the Legislature. I was not a candidate
afterwards. During this legislative period I had
studious law, and removed to Springfield to
practice it. In 1846 I was once elected
to the Lower House of Congress. Was not a can-
didate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854, both

inclination, practical than more aridly theoretical, than ever before. Always a whig in politics, and generally on the whig electoral ticket, making active careers. I was losing interest in politics, when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since then is pretty well known.

If any personal description of me is thought ~~worth~~ desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes. No other marks or scars recollectable.

Wm. J. W. Felt.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln



Washington, D.C. March 28. 1875

We the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing statement is in the hand writing of Abraham Lincoln.

David Davis
Lyman T. Sumner
Charles Sumner

